December 3, 1976

John Sherman Cooper
503 N. Main Street
Somerset KY 42501

Dear Mr. Cooper,

I am working on an article for McCall's concerning the new doubts about the Warren Commission report -doubts that have arisen as a result of the revelations of the Church and Pike committees and that have prompted both the Senate and the House to undertake investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy.

I am not trying to uncover new facts or to "solve" anything. What I want to do is to get the opinions of some of those who were caught up in the tragedy of Dallas and its aftermath, about the findings of the Church and Pike committees as they may relate to the assassination and the Warren report. I need not say how much McCall's would value your opinions on this matter and how crucial we feel they are to the article.

Boiling down a host of questions that come to mind, may I pose four:

1. Do you think that Allen Dulles should have revealed to the Commissioners the CIA's involvement in plans to assassinate Castro and its contracting with Mafia figures to further those plans?

2. Representative Downing and others are much concerned about the minutes of a Commission meeting about Oswald's possible F.B.I. connections. Mr. Dulles points out that if J. Edgar Hoover is asked about it he would -and should, in Mr. Dulles' opinion- most certainly lie to the Commissioners if there were any such connection. Rep. Downing feels that this illustrates a central weakness in the Warren Commission procedure: reliance on various agencies to provide the answers about themselves. Would you comment on this, please?

230 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 (212) 983-3200

3. The report of the Church Committee notes that three days after the assassination the following memo was dispatched by Nicholas Katzenbach to Bill Moyers (read Robert Kennedy to President Johnson):

"It is important that all of the facts surrounding President Kennedy's assassination be made public in a way which will satisfy people in the United States and abroad that all the facts have been told and that a statement to this effect be made now.

"1. The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial.

"2. Speculation about Oswald's motivation ought to be cut off and we should have some basis for rebutting thought that this was a Communist conspiracy or (as the Iron Curtain press is saying) a right wing conspiracy to blame it on the Communists."

What are we to make of this memo? One must assume that Robert Kennedy, more than anyone, would have wished to get to the bottom of that terrible event. Yet he seemed to want <u>no</u> investigation. Could you comment on this, please?

4. You will have caught the drift of my qestions. I know that you were firmly convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy. Thus far the critics of the Warren report have not come up with another assassin. Would it be a fair summation to say, however, that while the <u>conclusions</u> of the Warren Commission may still be correct they were reached not because the Commissioners were given all the relevant information but rather despite the witholding of important information from the Commissioners? And that it was this coverup -or rather these coverups -by various agencies, for perhaps various reasons, that fed and continue to feed conspiracy theories?

We are planning this article for the March issue and we would be most grateful for an early reply.

Respectfully yours,

Vivian Cadden

Vivian Cadden
Senior Editor

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